

# Djuana Harvell

## ABOUT

Djuana Harvell, PhD, is the Director of Special and Innovative Projects at The Foundation for Sustainable Urban Communities, where she is involved with *Be Well Health and Wellness initiative*. Her background is in biomedical research, where she received her PhD in Pathology and Microbiology, and worked in an Endocrinology lab at the beginning of her career. Djuana was able to merge her two passions for community and research when she joined the PACT Council as a community-based PACT Council member.



## CCTSI ENGAGEMENT

Community-based PACT Council Member  
Membership: 2017-Current

- PACT Council Vice-Chair
- Pilot Grants Committee
- Education and Training Committee

## PROJECT INVOLVEMENT

In her work, Djuana provides a number of resources to the low-income African American and Hispanic families she serves, looking to give these people the tools they need to make informed decisions and make a positive impact on their community's health and wellbeing.

**“I believe in the small wins. I believe that these small wins are making a difference and will help to make a change in the systemic issues that need to be addressed.”**

## OUTLOOK

She says it was the PACT's mission and values that attracted her to the position, and the rest is history! By appreciating the personality, creativity, and culture of her community, she has been able to foster engagement and help people realize that they have a voice that matters. It hasn't been easy, but Djuana has made it her mission to create a trusting and sustainable relationship with her community, minimizing misunderstandings and promoting accountability. In her work with the PACT Council, she has prided herself on creating a connection between academia and community by being honest and authentic. She hopes to create a climate of listening and appreciation between these two worlds in order to shine more light on the relevant issues of the people and begin to push for change.